## Assisting the Miracle.

By JOHN HARTY.

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Jessie thrilled at the sight of the tall, grave man slowly descending the steps to the boat landing. He was s governor, the governor of her own state, and in his hands he held the power of life and death—the life or marry and who now lay in prison in the water. Like a flash Jessie had awaiting execution for the murder of a caught up the oars and was rowing friend.

toward him. It was the work of a mo-

He smiled brightly upon her as he came upon the float. "I see that it is not worms alone the early bird acquires," he said as he raised his hat. sle. "Apparently boats as well come under cold." that classification."

"Won't you come with me?" she inbe only too glad to have you come

The governor's face beamed with de-

"I was afraid that I was to lose my you are a fisherman yourself, it seems."

His eyes fell upon the tackie neatly arranged in the stern, and Jessie nodded her verification. Fishing had done much to help her over the days that had gone by since sentence was passed on Tim Darlington. She swept her tackle to one side, and the governor took his seat after she had declined to let him row.

"It seems that I ought to know you," the water. "Have I not seen you some-

"At the executive mansion," she answered, coloring. "I came to plead for Tim Darlington."

"Ah, yes," he answered; "I knew that I had seen you before. I seldom forget a face, though sometimes I cannot exactly place it. It was a very unfortu-I truly regretted that I



"I SHALL SIGN YOUR FIANCE'S RELEASE

could not bring back the roses to your face by freeing your fiance, the evidence was so strongly against him."

"Purely circumstantial," contended tons declared that it was murder and to see everything that is going on. pressed the case."

Sutton had been the dishonest means of losing some of Darlington's savings in a deal."

"But that was all patched up," cried the money in installments. 'He con- and lame in his hoff leg." fessed to Tim that he had spent it inmade friends again."

The governor shook his head. He had stern ideas on the abuse of the pardoning power. To him the case seemed clear.

"I am sorry," he said gently, "but let us not discuss the matter. I am firmly convinced that with a flat bottomed boat the man could not have fallen overboard. That is the weak point in the defense—the statement that the man fell out of the boat while changing places. Why, I have changed places in a boat hundreds of times and

never lost my balance!" "I didn't mean to annoy you," cried Jessie penitently. "You are down here for a rest, not to be bothered with affairs of state."

"You do not annoy me," he assured. "I only wish I could be convinced that the defense was accurate. If you could argue a new point I would gladly lis-

"I can only tell you how it happen- health for a year. ed," said Jessie dolefully. "There is no new point. But here is the best place to fish," she added as she moved lightly to the bow and threw over the anchor, "I found this place last week. It's the best on the lake."

The governor hurrledly threw out his hook, and presently the two were busily engaged in hauling in fish. The sport was excellent, and the tired lines about the governor's mouth relaxed as

he pulled in the finny beauties. Jessie was having even better luck. and at last the governor straightened up, with a sigh of regret. "I am afraid populate the lake at one session. I am | Michigan.

under deep obligation to you, Miss Grandin. It is the best morning's sport I have had since I came."

"I'm glad t'ere were no more bonts," said Jessie simply. "No one else ap-pears to have found this hole."

The governor looked with admiration at the catch and then half rose to his

"You must let me row back," he insisted. "You are tired with your fishing. Sit here in the stern."

Cautiously they exchanged places and the governor went into the bow to raise the anchor. He had brought the hook inboard and rose to a crouching position to regain the rowing seat th of the man she had promised to the next moment he was floundering ment for him to climb aboard over the bow again.

"You had better row," suggested Jes "That will keep you from taking

vited. "I am going out alone and shall time neither spoke; then the man looked up.

"Do you know," he said, with an odd expression on his face, "I feel as though this is a message. I have always believed it to be impossible for a sport," he said as he stepped into the man to fall overboard if he took care. skiff. "I have only a week, and—well. I shall sign your flance's release as man to fall overboard if he took care.

soon as I return." her thanks, and it was not until they came in sight of the landing that she recovered her self possession. None of the other parties had seen the accident, and the governor, much to his relief, was able to slip into the hotel without attracting attention.

Nothing more was said regarding the matter, but Jessie's heart sang as she he said uncertainly as her strong, even saw the governor take his departure strokes carried them rapidly through and realized that one of his first official acts would be the signing of the

pardon for Tim. But it was two weeks before the ma chinery of the law at last released its grip on the person of Tim Darlington and he walked out of the death house to freedom. He had arranged to come straight to Jessie, and they were floating over the same fishing pool where the governor had taken his plunge.

"It seems like a miracle that the governor should have gone overboard just after you had brought my case freshly to his mind," said Tim as he drew in a fish.

"It wasn't exactly a miracle," confessed Jessie. "I remembered what he said about that being the only point. When I saw him standing just a tiny bit. It wasn't really wrong. was it?"

"Do you expect me to say 'Yes' to that?" demanded Tim, with a laugh as he bent to kiss the happy face. "I should call it assisting the miracle."

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Too Observant.

Much is said in these days about the importance of training the young to Jessie bravely. "Tim and Jack Sutton habits of observation. It is well to were out in a boat, and Jack went keep one's eyes open, but as there are overboard. Tim could not save him two sides to every shield, so there are because he could not swim. The Sut- times when it is not a man's first duty Fire Insurance Co., of New York.

A farmer bired a man, the story goes "But they proved motive," reminded and put him into his field to work. the governor. "It seems that young After awhile the farmer came along and accosted the new hand:

"Did you see a carriage go down the road awhile ago?"

"Yes, I did. One of the hosses was Jessie. "Jack was to have paid back a gray hoss, and the other was a roan

"I though I heard some men shootstead of investing it, but they had ing over there on the edge of the woods.

"Yes: one of them was Colonel Cotton: he was the tall one. The second one was Major Peters, and the third one was Tom McSniffer. Colonel Cotton had one of them newfangled breechloadin' guns what breaks in

two." "Did you see those wild pigeons fly

over just now?" "See 'em! Rather. There was nine teen of them. They lit in that old cornfield down yonder."

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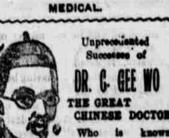
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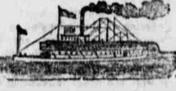
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